

10/694,957

6

PD-980263A

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated April 26, 2004, claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 7-17 stand allowed. Claims 27-30 stand objected to. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the word "roughly" and the word "end." Applicants believe that this amendment has made the claims definite.

Claims 18-26 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Wolcott* (6,002,360). Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 18 is directed to a signal processing circuit that includes a receive digital processing circuit that includes a receive digital beam forming circuit coupled to $nx4$ receive elements where n is an integer at least equal to 1. The signal processing circuit also includes a transmit digital signal processing circuit that includes a transmit digital beam forming circuit coupled to $nx4$ elements wherein n is an integer at least equal to 1.

As the Examiner points out, the *Wolcott* reference has receive elements, receive digital beam forming circuit coupled to the receive elements, transmit elements and a transmit digital beam forming circuit. However, the Examiner fails to state that there are $nx4$ transmit elements and $nx4$ receive elements coupled to the respective transmit digital beam forming network and a receive digital beam forming network. The discussion of Fig. 6 which shows receive elements and transmitting elements in the *Wolcott* reference begins in Col. 8, line 1 and continues through line 35. Applicants can find no teaching or suggestion for $nx4$ element as recited in claim 18.

Claim 31 stands rejected also under the *Wolcott* reference. Claim 31 is more specific than claim 18 and recites a $4x4$ array of receive elements and a $4x4$ array of transmit elements. Applicants therefore believe that claim 31 is also allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

Likewise, claims 19-26 are dependent upon claim 18 and are also believed to be allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

In light of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that all

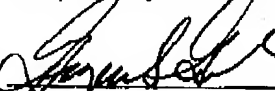
10/694,957

7

PD-980263A

rejections are now overcome. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgann S. Grunebach
Reg. No. 33,179
Attorney for Applicants

Date: July 23, 2004

The DirecTV Group, Inc.
2250 East Imperial Highway
P.O. Box 956
El Segundo, CA 90245
Telephone: (310) 964-4615